United Nations A/CONF.217/2013/2

General Assembly

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Final United Nations Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty
New York, 18-28 March 2013

Report of the Final United Nations Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty

I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 67/234, the General Assembly decided to convene in New York, from 18 to 28 March 2013, the Final United Nations Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty, to be governed by the rules of procedure adopted on 3 July 2012 and contained in document A/CONF.217/L.1, in order to finalize the elaboration of the Arms Trade Treaty, in an open and transparent manner, utilizing the modalities, applied mutatis mutandis, under which the United Nations Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty operated in 2012.

2. In the same resolution, the General Assembly also decided that the draft text of the Arms Trade Treaty submitted by the President of the United Nations Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty on 26 July 2012 in conference room paper A/CONF.217/CRP.1 should be the basis for future work on the Arms Trade Treaty, without prejudice to the right of delegations to put forward additional proposals on that text.

3. The General Assembly further requested the Secretary-General to undertake consultations for the nomination of the President-designate of the Final United Nations Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty and requested the President-designate to undertake prior to the Conference in 2013 consultations on the basis of the draft text of the Arms Trade Treaty submitted by the President of the United Nations Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty in conference room paper A/CONF.217/CRP.1.

II. Organizational matters and proceedings of the Conference

A. Opening and duration of the Conference

4. The Final United Nations Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty was convened at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 18 to 28 March 2013. The

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Conference was opened by the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs on 18 March 2013. At the same meeting, Peter Woolcott (Australia) was elected President of the Conference. The Secretary-General of the United Nations addressed the Conference. Daniel Prins of the Office for Disarmament Affairs was appointed Secretary-General of the Conference. The Conference held plenary meetings and informal meetings. The list of participants is contained in document A/CONF.217/2013/INF/2.

B. Rules of procedure

5. At its 1st meeting, on 18 March, the Conference adopted its rules of procedure (A/CONF.217/L.1).

C. Agenda and organization of work

6. At the same meeting, the Conference adopted its agenda (A/CONF.217/2013/L.1) as follows:

1. Opening of the Final Conference.
2. Election of the President.
3. Statement by the President.
4. Address by the Secretary-General of the United Nations.
5. Adoption of the rules of procedure.
6. Adoption of the agenda.
7. Election of officers other than the President.
8. Confirmation of the Secretary-General of the Final Conference.
9. Credentials of representatives to the Final Conference:
   (a) Appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee;
   (b) Report of the Credentials Committee.
10. Organization of work.
11. General exchange of views.
12. Statements by:
   (a) Representatives of intergovernmental organizations;
   (b) Representatives of non-governmental organizations.
13. Consideration and adoption of the final documents of the Final Conference.
14. Other matters.
15. Adoption of the report of the Final Conference to the General Assembly.

7. Also at the same meeting, the Conference approved its indicative programme of work, as proposed by the President (A/CONF.217/2013/INF/1/Rev.1).

D. Officers

8. The composition of the Bureau of the Conference was as follows:

President:
Peter Woolcott (Australia)

Vice-Presidents:
Argentina
Azerbaijan
Belize
Egypt
Estonia
Japan
Mexico
Netherlands
Nigeria
Pakistan
Republic of Korea
Romania
South Africa
Sweden

E. Documentation

9. The documents of the Conference are listed in the annex to the present report.

III. Credentials

10. Pursuant to rule 4 of the rules of procedure of the Conference (A/CONF.217/L.1), according to which the composition of the Credentials Committee shall be based on that of the Credentials Committee of the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session, the Conference appointed Angola, China, Peru, the Russian Federation, Seychelles, Sweden, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago and the United States of America as members of its Credentials Committee.

11. At its 16th meeting, on 27 March, the Conference adopted the draft resolution recommended by the Credentials Committee in paragraph 13 of its report (A/CONF.217/2013/1), which had examined the credentials of the representatives of Member States to the Conference and found them to be in order. A statement in explanation of position after the adoption was made by the representative of Kuwait on behalf of the Arab Group.

IV. Consideration and adoption of the final documents of the Conference and the report of the Conference to the General Assembly

12. The Conference held 17 plenary meetings from 18 to 28 March 2013, at which it considered and negotiated the text of the Arms Trade Treaty under agenda item

13. The President appointed facilitators who conducted informal meetings on aspects of the Arms Trade Treaty as follows:

Ambassador Mari Amano (Japan), brokering

Ambassador Paul Beijer (Sweden), scope

Mr. Roberto Dondisch (Mexico), diversion

Mr. Bouchaib Eloumni (Morocco), preamble; principles; object and purpose

Ambassador Dell Higgie (New Zealand), general implementation; relationship with other international agreements

Ambassador Paul van den IJssel (Netherlands), record-keeping; reporting

Ambassador Federico Perazza (Uruguay), final provisions

Mr. Zahid Rastam (Malaysia), transit or trans-shipment

Ambassador Riitta Resch (Finland), other considerations

Ms. Shorna Kay Richards (Jamaica) and Ms. Michelle Walker (Jamaica), prohibitions

Mr. Rob Wensley (South Africa), international cooperation; international assistance.

14. At its 14th meeting, on 26 March, the Conference established a Drafting Committee to conduct a technical review of the President's final draft text of the Treaty, and appointed Belarus, China, Côte d'Ivoire, France, Iraq, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Nigeria, Romania, Switzerland, Trinidad and Tobago, United Kingdom and Uruguay as members of the Committee. At its meeting, on 27 March, the Committee elected Juan Manuel Gomez Robledo (Mexico) as its Chair. At the Conference's 16th plenary, on 27 March, the President presented an oral report of the Committee's work on behalf of the Chair of the Committee.

15. At its 17th meeting, on 28 March, the President proposed for the Conference's adoption by consensus draft decision A/CONF.217/2013/L.3 to which a draft text of the Arms Trade Treaty was annexed. The President concluded that, in accordance with rule 33 of the rules of procedure, there was no consensus, and the draft decision was not adopted.

16. At the same meeting, the Conference adopted its report to the General Assembly by consensus.

Annex

Documentation

The Conference had before it the following documents:

Provisional rules of procedure of the Conference (A/CONF.217/L.1);

Draft of the Arms Trade Treaty (A/CONF.217/CRP.1);

Draft provisional agenda of the Final Conference (A/CONF.217/2013/L.1);

Draft report of the Final United Nations Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty (A/CONF.217/2013/L.2);

Draft decision submitted by the President of the Final Conference (A/CONF.217/2013/L.3);

Draft indicative programme of work (A/CONF.217/2013/INF/1/Rev.1);

Report of the Credentials Committee (A/CONF.217/2013/1);

Report of the Final United Nations Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty (A/CONF.217/2013/2);

Statement of Cuba (A/CONF.217/2013/3);

Statement of Kuwait (A/CONF.217/2013/4).